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Costa Rican Security Minister Kidnapping

Costa Rican Security Minister Luis Fishman, who was acting as mediator in a meeting between a Honduran guerrilla group and the Honduran Government in Costa Rica, was kidnapped along with the Mexican ambassador, the bishop of Santa Rosa de Copan, and a Honduran police colonel, San Jose radio reports. San Jose radio reports that the kidnapper, Orlando Ordonez Betancourt, "demanded an airplane to travel to Honduras," but before taking off, was convinced to release the ambassador, the bishop, and the police colonel. President Calderon called a "special emergency meeting of the Government Council" and the "matter is now in the Honduran authorities' hands."

Tegucigalpa radio reports Honduran President Callejas appointed Jacobo Hernandez to "negotiate with the kidnapper" at Toncontin Airport where the plane landed. Although military forces surrounded the twin-engine plane, Callejas assured President Calderon that the forces "will not intervene so the hostages will not be endangered."

Brazil

Rio de Janeiro TV reports a "historical judgment has just ended" in the Federal Supreme Court as the final vote was cast on the government's injunction filed against the rules established by the Chamber of Deputies. The court "decided that the vote will be open" and the president's right to defense will be restricted according to the "terms that already have been granted through a preliminary court decision."

Argentina

According to TELAM, Foreign Relations Under Secretary Rogelio Pfirter, at the end of a "unexpected meeting" with Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and British Foreign Office Deputy Minister Tristan Garel-Jones, announced the British Government "'is convinced that if hydrocarbons are found in the Malvinas Islands, cooperation must be agreed upon with Argentina to continue with the prospecting work.'" Pfirter stated that Di Tella and Garel-Jones held a "cordial" dialogue and "reaffirmed their positions to observe the formula...on the protection of the archipelago's sovereignty."

Cuba

PCC's No. 3 Man Ousted for 'Serious Errors'

PA2309190492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1710 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Havana, 23 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Sources close to the government and the official party confirmed on 23 September that Carlos Aldana, the third most important man in the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), had been removed as ideology, culture, and foreign policy secretary.

The sources told NOTIMEX that the PCC board had met with party leaders and the local media to report Aldana's ouster.

As of noon [1700 GMT] on 23 September, however, Cuban authorities had not officially reported this act.

Sources questioned by NOTIMEX indicated that Aldana had been ousted "for serious errors in the management of his duties within the party." No further details were added. [passage omitted]

Balaguer Named Replacement

PA2309223892 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2142 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Havana, 23 Sep (DPA)—Jose Ramon Balaguer, former Cuban ambassador to Moscow and considered an orthodox Marxist-Leninist, will replace Carlos Aldana, who was removed today from the post of Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] official in charge of ideology, international relations, culture, and education.

Balaguer assumed control of the Cuban Embassy in Moscow during the days of greatest tension between Havana and the former Soviet Union, and was recalled in August. The official version was that his diplomatic mission had ended.

Sources closest to the PCC told DPA Balaguer will only be in charge of the party's ideology and international relations.

The critical area of culture, formerly under Aldana's control and where critical problems have arisen, will now be handled by Central Committee officials in charge of education, sciences, and sports.

As of this week, this sort of super ministry will be directed by Maria de los Angeles Garcia Alvarez, who was second secretary of the PCC in Santiago de Cuba Province and who was promoted to the Politburo in October 1991 at the Fourth PCC Congress.

The dismissal of Aldana, considered No. 3 man in the Cuban hierarchy, after Fidel Castro and his brother Raul, has been attributed by sources close to the PCC to "deficiencies" and "mistakes."

The sources who were authorized by higher officials to make this information known, believe that Aldana also has been separated from the PCC Central Committee Politburo.

In spite of the importance of this dismissal, Cuban media have not provided any explanation and there is every indication that for the time being there is no intention to issue an official opinion on this matter. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia

FL2309134692 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] In Moscow, officials from the Cuban and Russian Chambers of Commerce have signed a cooperation agreement which emphasizes the interest of both parties in developing bilateral relations.

Havana to 'Strengthen, Perfect' Nuclear Program

FL2409015192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Cuba will continue to apply nuclear technology in its biomedicine and is interested in completing the construction of its first nuclear power plant. This declaration was just made in Vienna by Andres Garcia de la Cruz, the executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission. Garcia de la Cruz spoke at the general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency and said that our country is making important changes to strengthen and perfect the nuclear program, consolidate the role of its secretariat, and complete, despite the current limitations, important projects that have already been started.

Garcia de la Cruz reiterated that, even though the construction of the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant has been stopped, there is interest in completing the project when it becomes possible. Therefore, the project will receive proper maintenance.

New System of Wholesale Prices, Rates Announced

FL2309134792 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Arturo Guzman, the minister president of the State Committee for Prices, announced that a new system of wholesale prices and rates could be implemented beginning in October. In a meeting with economists at the international press center, Guzman explained that the application of the new system will facilitate the development of self-financed economic programs and will contribute to increased efficiency.

He added that the improvement of wholesale prices and rates is based on the real values of imported products on the international market, which will mean that product costs will be updated, taking into account the dynamics of foreign trade.

Panel Discusses New Grassroots Labor Courts

FL2309192092

[Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0107 GMT on 23 September carries live its "Open Agenda" program on the grassroots labor justice courts. Program host Maribel Puerto begins the program by saying: No one is exempt from having a problem at work. For that reason it is important for everyone to become familiar with the changes to the Cuban labor justice process that have resulted from the creation of the grassroots labor justice courts, which were started almost two years ago with a pilot program in Villa Clara Province and have now extended nationwide." Puerto introduces her panel of guests: Francisco Penalver, the vice president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security; Francisco Castillo, a member of the Executive Secretariat of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] National Committee; and Raudilio Martin, a judge and president of the Labor Chamber of the Supreme Court.

Penalver refers to the experiences of Villa Clara Province as the starting point for this program. The first steps were taken there in February 1990, and on 10 November the program went into action. He notes that almost 22 months have passed since the project was started. Penalver explains that there were work councils, which were responsible for disputes about rights—such as vacation, wage, and social security payment problems—but they did not have jurisdiction over complaints against disciplinary measures imposed as a result of work violations. He says that workers had to go to the municipal courts to resolve these problems. These municipal courts were far away from the work centers and there was often insufficient information, which made it difficult to resolve the problems. He notes that the idea arose that it was important for work centers to play a bigger role in resolving labor problems; thus, the grassroots labor justice bodies were formed.

Penalver continues: "These bodies are very representative. The important elements at the work center are represented: the administration, which designates one active and one alternate member; the union, which designates one active and one alternate member; and the workers, who are elected by direct vote. Formed in this manner, the body has the power to represent the center." He notes that this program has been implemented nationwide in order to see if it is the best way to administer labor justice.

Judge Martin notes that substantial changes have been made to the courts. The use of the judicial process has been simplified. He notes that the municipal courts have become the basic authority for settling legal and disciplinary conflicts. Castillo reviews the composition of the labor justice courts, noting they are composed of five active and four alternate members. He points out that three workers' representatives are elected at an assembly by public vote, and the active members elect the group's president, who must be one of the three workers elected at the workers' assembly.

Puerto expresses interest in the disciplinary measures which the administrations can now apply. Judge Martin says there have been substantial changes, primarily to Article 159 of the Labor Code, which detailed the five main disciplinary measures. Martin notes that private warnings no longer exist as a disciplinary measure, and a set of new measures have been added. There is now a total of 11 measures, including the measures already in the Labor Code and new measures involving financial penalties and the suspension of certain rights.

Penalver notes that the State Committee for Labor is responsible for these grassroots labor justice groups, in coordination with the courts, the Justice Ministry, the Public Prosecutors Office, the CTC, and the unions. Each organization has specific duties in overseeing the work of the labor justice courts.

Puerto asks what qualities a worker must possess in order to be a member of these courts. Castillo says that the workers' assemblies discuss the qualities a member must have, which usually concern having a proper attitude toward work, being disciplined, showing morally correct behavior in and outside the work center, and setting an example for the other workers. Castillo states that a worker who has received a disciplinary sanction cannot be a member of a court unless he has completed his rehabilitation process.

Penalver comments on the functions of the court. This organization will make the final decision in the vast majority of discipline problems. He notes that only when a worker is to be transferred or fired can he appeal his case to the municipal court. Penalver says that the courts are an attempt to improve labor justice, and in Villa Clara Province more than 97 percent of the disciplinary problems were resolved at the work centers. If the courts act correctly, they have an educational function, in that they can influence the workers and management to act more responsibly. Penalver adds: "Undoubtedly the court exerts a positive influence on labor discipline, but labor discipline is more complex and requires a great effort. Really, we are not doing well regarding discipline."

Puerto then asks what happens if a grassroots labor justice court issues a ruling that does not comply with the law. Martin answers that the courts are obligated to obey the law. If a court does not obey the law, the Public Prosecutors Office, labor inspectors, or the province's labor director can intervene, and the court must issue a new ruling. The parties involved in a case can appeal a ruling. He notes that the court must rule correctly, and the administration is obligated to comply with the ruling.

Castillo says if a worker thinks his rights have been violated, he must first complain to the justice labor court. If he disagrees with the ruling and if new evidence exists, the case can be reviewed and the penalty reduced. He says that if a worker is sanctioned and then shows an

exemplary attitude, his penalty can be suspended, but if he repeats the violation then he must go back and comply with the suspended ruling.

Martin explains that a worker can appeal the application of a penalty immediately, but has up to seven days to respond. He notes that all cases involving the permanent transfer or firing of a worker end up in the municipal courts. The parties in cases involving disputed rights can appeal the labor justice court's ruling in the municipal court within 180 days. Martin adds that the grassroots labor justice courts do not deal with the disciplinary process for managers.

Penalver then comments on his trip scheduled for October to all the provinces to spot check selected municipalities and work centers to see how things are progressing. Martin notes that Decree-Law 132 deals with suspending certain provisions of the Labor Code only where they conflict with the implementation of the Villa Clara project. Castillo notes that each province has called an assessment meeting to discuss labor discipline and how to apply the results of these grassroots labor justice courts.

The 28-minute program concludes by referring viewers with further questions to their municipal labor directorates.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS, French Officials To Discuss Cooperation

FL2309230092 Bridgetown CANA in English 2158 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Sept 23, CANA—Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and French officials open a two-day meeting here Thursday [17 September] to discuss the establishment of working groups to explore cooperation between OECS countries and the French territories of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guiana. An OECS statement said the discussions would cover trade, agriculture, tourism, the movement of persons, human resource development, and social services among other topics.

The meeting here follows a conference of French politicans and officials in French Guiana two years ago which considered regional cooperation in the Caribbean between the three French overseas departments and neighbouring countries.

"At that conference an inter-ministerial delegate for cooperation in the Caribbean was appointed and a fund established for financing activities which would be mutually agreed upon," the statement said.

Haiti

Benoit Reacts to OAS Civilian Mission

FL2309165992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The latest reaction to the OAS civilian mission comes from the secretary general of the National Congress of Democratic Movements, Victor Benoit, who said the Haitian crisis is about to be progressively solved thanks to the presence of this civilian mission. Benoit, who thinks that all solutions must take into account the relationship between the forces present in Haiti, stated that the reason the Washington agreement was not passed is that there are real forces within the country which were not present around the negotiation table.

[Begin recording] [Benoit] I think it is a situation which is still (?entangled), and therefore causes a certain degree of worry. I think it is a situation which will be disentangled little by little, step by step.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] OAS members have come, of course, in reduced number. But their presence should bring serenity and guarantee the safety of the various sectors in society so negotiations can be held without problems.

[Benoit] I think that once one speaks of politics, one speaks as well of [words indistinct]. There must be a solution that takes into account the relationship between the existing forces. In other words, if a government has to take power, it should be a government of national concord. I think this is a political solution. However, insofar as this is not contrary to [rephrases] this must be contrary to the Constitution. [sentence as heard] It will then be a constitutional solution too.

I do not agree with those who are opposing political solution and constitutional solution as if—I could say—they are two opposing issues. No, I think one can make a political choice which can comply with the Constitution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bazin Holds Ministers Meeting in Artibonite

FL2309204392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by Rothschild Francois in Petite Riviere de L'Artibonite--live]

[Excerpt] Today, the ministers are meeting outside the capital. Marc Bazin has chosen to meet the members of his government at the Royal Palace in Petite Riviere de L'Artibonite. The meeting resulted in some progovernment demonstrations. The ministers are still meeting at the palace. Today, the government office is in the Artibonite. Rothschild Francois has a live report.

[Rothschild] The first meeting of government ministers to take place in the provinces began a few hours ago in

Petite Riviere de L'Artibonite. This meeting, headed by Prime Minister Marc L. Bazin, has caused some progovernment demonstrations in the town. In their exchanges, parliamentarians and leaders in the region addressed the major problems that the residents of the Artibonite are facing and in particular, Petite Riviere. In a short address, Prime Minister Bazin praised the people from Artibonite for their welcome. He promised to talk with the population following the ministers' meeting. Later, the head of the consensus government is scheduled to place a bouquet of flowers in memory of the heroes of the independence at the Crete-a-Pierrot. [passage omitted]

Social Affairs Issues Unemployment Assistance

FL2309222892 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Italicized passages in Creole]

[Excerpts] As the beginning of the school year approaches, the Marc Bazin government is launching a vast operation of distribution of bonuses and social assistance in the form of grants, donations, and allowances. After the students, it is the turn of needy parents to benefit from the generosity of the government stemming from the Tripartite Agreement. A sum of 2.027 million gourdes has been withdrawn in order to assist 15,000 workers from the assembly industry, now unemployed because of political events.

An average of 135 gourdes will be given to each worker in the form of an unemployment allowance. Minister of Social Affairs Andre Brutus, who is responsible for this initiative, indicated that the funds for this operation have been withdrawn from the fund for social assistance at the Ministry of Social Affairs and from the emergency budget. He also explained to us the objective followed by the consensus government with regards to social assistance.

[Begin Brutus recording] *Unemployment allowances are basically a form of solidarity and also an initiative by the Social Affairs Ministry to compensate workers of the assembly industry. The reason we came up with this initiative is simply because, during the installation of the government, the prime minister clearly requested from the Social Affairs Ministry an increase in the minimum wage. Once we started working in that sense, we had to investigate the situation of the firms [words indistinct].*

Due to the existence of an emergency program, we thought that it was very urgent that we lend some assistance to those workers who lost their jobs because of the embargo and the economic structures. We called it an unemployment allowance because it concerns workers. Finally, it is a benefit like the one we are giving to deprived families for the resumption of school year. [end recording].

Another institution involved in this operation is the ONA, the National Office of Pensioner Insurance, whose facilities are being used for the distribution of unemployment allowances and most probably its [?funds]. There are worries on the part of the insurance holders who wonder about those withdrawals. In that sense, there is a sort of litigation between the ONA administration and the Social Affairs Ministry. [passage omitted]

The social affairs minister, who did not deny the statements by the ONA administrator, simply stated that those small administrative ambiguities have been resolved and the distribution of the envelopes started in the afternoon of 22 September at 1400 to the satisfaction of the unemployed workers.

Law on Territorial Communities To Be Examined

FL2309214192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Italicized passages in Creole]

[Text] A senatorial committee has been formed at the parliament to examine the draft law that was voted by the deputies which authorizes the establishing of assemblies in territorial communities. This committee, which is not yet complete, includes five senators: Faniel Jean-Baptiste, Julio Larossiliere, Thomas Eddy Dupiton, Wesner Emmanuel, and Firmin Jean-Louis.

During the session on 22 September at the Senate, Senate President Dejean Belizaire recalled the immediate objective of this law—considered indispensable in the current circumstances—which is the formation of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] for the renewal of a third of the Senate before the end of the year.

Two of the National Front for Change and Democracy senators, who oppose a vote on this law in the current circumstances, Wesner Emmanuel and Firmin Jean-Louis, voiced their views to Ansyrose Resignac.

[Begin recording] [Emmanuel] *Who will be included in this assembly? I have a simple example. In the southeast region, I know someone who already formed an assembly. All the players are ready, with their tennis shoes on, to go on the field. However, they are players of a team that we cannot accept. The Constitution provides for participation, a sharing of power at different levels. When the central power in Port-au-Prince is able to manipulate with its own people to form the communal assemblies, municipal assemblies, and others, instead of having decentralized powers, there are simply executive representatives of*

this same executive power, with the same mentality as we see here at the Senate.

It is a paternalistic mentality, a family affair. We have a different concept. We stand by citizenship, meaning the citizen, the man in the street who participates in the power, who makes decisions, who must voice his thoughts. We do not need some decentralized assemblies with zombies, local representatives of the central power. We do not want those deals.

[Jean-Louis] *What is behind this law, and everyone must know it, is the creation of a situation of no return where there will be a sort of hold on nine senatorial seats and they will control the CEP as well.*

Not only do they control the territorial communities in the communal sections, in the communes, in the departments, and in the Senate but also the CEP. [end recording]

Costa Rica

Security Minister Kidnapped, Taken to Honduras

PA2409003792 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0002 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] San Jose, 23 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Security Minister Luis Fishman was kidnapped on 23 September by a Honduran citizen and taken to that country, it was reported by Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon.

According to the president, Fishman was in a meeting in San Jose with a military officer, a Honduran bishop, and Carmen Moreno, Mexican ambassador to Costa Rica, when a person identified as Orlando Ordonez kidnapped him.

Ordonez allegedly threatened the minister with a pistol and forced him to go to the airport and fly to Honduras, while Ambassador Moreno and the bishop were released upon Fishman's request.

Calderon Details Abduction

PA2409015892 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0110 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Interview with President Rafael Angel Calderon by unidentified reporter on 23 September in San Jose—recorded]

[Text] [Calderon] We are quite concerned but hopeful and praying to God that everything comes out well and that Minister [Luis] Fishman is released safe and sound. Minister Fishman was attending a meeting as mediator between the Cinchonero People's Liberation Front, an old Honduran guerrilla group, and the Honduran Government—some Honduran Government officials—to clarify some things that have occurred in the past.

The meeting was held at noon on 23 September in the Don Bosco Institute here in Costa Rica. The meeting was attended by the bishop of Santa Rosa de Copan, Minister Fishman, a Honduran police colonel, a person identified as Orlando Ordonez Betancourt—apparently the man who kidnapped the minister—and the Mexican ambassador. Apparently the man pointed a gun at the minister, the bishop, and the Mexican ambassador. He then demanded an airplane to travel to Honduras.

The Mexican ambassador drove the car to the public security air base and there Minister Fishman and the bishop managed to convince the man to release the Mexican ambassador. They told him he did not need all those hostages; that the minister was enough. They both boarded the airplane en route to Honduras. They left about one and one-half hours ago and we learned about the problem at that time. That is all the information we have. I have obviously contacted the Honduran president, who has offered us his full cooperation in this case.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. Rafael Angel Calderon. What other actions have you taken?

[Calderon] The matter is now in the Honduran authorities' hands. They have guaranteed they will remain calm at all times and abstain from doing anything that may endanger Minister Fishman's life. We will try to meet this man's demands. All he has done until now is request the protection of the Honduran Catholic Church. Once he is turned over to Catholic Church authorities in Honduras, he may possibly release Minister Fishman. We hope he does not think of other demands on his way there because that will render the minister's recovery more difficult—not to mention that of the other hostages.

Policeman, Bishop Released

PA2409020792 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0129 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report by William Cespedes from the Presidential House]

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon has called for a special emergency meeting of the Government Council. It will begin shortly at the Presidential Palace. In addition, it was reported that kidnapper Orlando Ordonez Betancourt has released Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Luna of the Honduran Secret Police and Monsignor Luis Alfonso Santos, bishop of Santa Rosa de Copan, while the Costa Rican pilots and Luis Fishman, minister of government and public security, are still being held.

In the meantime, the negotiating commission formed by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas is beginning talks with Ordonez Betancourt.

We repeat, Lt. Col. Manuel Luna, of the Honduran Secret Police, and Msgr. Luis Alfonso Santos, bishop of Santa Rosa de Copan, have been liberated, while Luis Fishman, Costa Rican minister of government and public security, and the pilots (Ney) Escobar and Jorge Leon—who piloted the aircraft that transported them to Tegucigalpa, Honduras—are still being held. This is the last report that we have.

Meanwhile, the ministers of President Calderon's cabinet have been called to a special emergency meeting of the Government Council.

President on Negotiation Process

PA2409061092 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0516 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Interview with President Rafael Angel Calderon by unidentified reporters in San Jose—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, this is live coverage. Telenoticias has remained alert, and we have been broadcasting all the information. We would like to know the status of the negotiations.

[Calderon] You must understand.... [pauses] I understand you. You would like to have all the details. This is logical and natural because you are the media and that is your mission. However, I would like to ask you to

understand the life of a Costa Rican—of three Costa Ricans—is at stake. The lives of Minister Luis Fishman and the two pilots are at stake. We still do not know for certain if one of the two pilots has been released, and if Minister Fishman and Col. Nery Escobar are still on the airplane. The representative of the apostolic nunciature in Honduras is in charge of the negotiations. He is negotiating with the kidnapper.

It should be quite clear that there is absolutely no Honduran political situation involved or obstructing the negotiations. In other words, no demands have been made concerning prisoners or anything like that. Right? Nothing like this is taking place. The reports about this are false. Rest assured the reports that said the negotiations included this man's brothers, who are prisoners in Honduras, are false. This information is not true. Nothing like that is taking place.

We are simply negotiating the delivery of this man to a third country—neither Honduras nor Costa Rica. The nunciature is helping in this case. There are other things involved, but I cannot reveal them. I understand you want to know about them, but I cannot tell you because these men's lives are at stake.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what are the kidnapper's demands?

[Calderon] That is precisely what you would like to know, but we cannot reveal it, because their lives are at stake.

[Reporter] What about...

[Calderon, interrupting] Everything is going along fine, and President Callejas is aware of all the details. He has sent a presidential designate and his trusted men. Our ambassador, Tomas Soley, has joined them. The Fishmans have been notified of all the details. An airplane will leave early in the morning to arrive there tomorrow. The airport's runway has no lights, so no one can land at night. Certain reporters wanted to travel there but this is impossible. They cannot land before 0530 or 0540.

[Reporter] Who will go in the airplane?

[Calderon] Fishman's wife wants to go, and his family wants to go. [Tourism Minister] Luis Manuel Chacon will accompany them as a cabinet member and representative of the government.

[Reporter] Mr. President, has the Honduran Government (?said anything) regarding security? Will you yield to any of his demands?

[Calderon] He is not making any demands on the government itself. The man wants a safe place, and this is what we are discussing. President Callejas has done everything within his power to cooperate and I, of course, am doing everything within my power.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Calderon] We have established a deadline, which is tonight. I am leaving now, but I will be staying in touch. President Callejas and I will keep in touch throughout the morning and I hope the minister will be with us early in the morning.

[Reporter] (?What) has hindered the negotiating process?

[Calderon] He [Fishman] must comment on that. He is the only one who knows absolutely all the details, and when he comes he will talk to you about all these things.

[Reporter] By what you have said, this is a legal issue. The gentleman fled Costa Rica because of legal problems.

[Calderon] He has all sorts of problems. He has problems in Honduras and in Costa Rica. It is obvious that he is not well, he is not a normal person, he has kidnapped a person and taken him away, he has made threats, he has grenades and pistols; he is not a normal person. He felt trapped, he had had a number of conversations with Minister Fishman and with the Honduran church and he made this absurd decision.

[Reporter] Do you believe the process has progressed?

[Calderon] It has progressed, and I believe the prospects at this time are good. You never know with a person like that; let's pray to God that things will end on a good note.

[Reporter] Does the fact that the security minister himself was kidnapped cast doubt on this country's security apparatus?

[Calderon] In this country we do not have large-scale security. No one in this country has large-scale security. Furthermore, just look at the situation. If the director of your newspaper invites you to a meeting with a bishop at a Catholic school, in the presence of parents, would you imagine that this would happen?

[Reporter] Will measures be adopted with a view to the future?

[Calderon] The Judicial Investigation Agency is conducting an intense investigation, and time will tell us exactly what to do.

[Reporter] What country [words indistinct]?

[Calderon] Maybe Mexico, but it could be any other country.

[Reporter] Has he made any (?specific requests of a country) or money?

[Calderon] The country could be Mexico or any other nation that traditionally shelters people, such as Costa Rica. Costa Rica traditionally has sheltered people linked to unconventional movements.

Honduras

Plane Reportedly With Kidnapped Minister Lands

PA2409014892 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0028 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] [Announcer] All Honduran airports have been declared in a state of alert in preparation for the arrival of a plane in which kidnapped Costa Rican Security Minister Luis Fishman is traveling, Honduran Armed Forces have confirmed.

Guillermo Pagan, a spokesman for the Honduran Armed Forces, reported that the Armed Forces staff is meeting this evening to analyze the situation because radar indicates the airplane is heading for Honduran territory. Here is a report from Toncontin Airport by Guillermo Paz.

[Paz] We are at Toncontin International Airport on the part of the airfield that leads to the Honduran Air Force terminal. A twin-engine plane has just landed. Several Air Force units are now following the aircraft, which landed a few minutes ago.

The airfield is being guarded by airport security personnel. We have been told that we cannot get on the field, but thanks to this airport's aeroclub and Mauricio Torres Molinero, we have been able to enter. Here is Torres.

[Torres] At this point we are a few meters away from the Toncontin runway. The lights are on. The twin-engine plane is now taxiing on the main runway that leads to the Honduran Air Force terminal. Several Air Force units are now escorting the aircraft.

[Paz] Because of the security measures that have been adopted at the airport, we have no doubt that the public security minister of Costa Rica, who was kidnapped a few hours ago in Costa Rica by Honduran Orlando Ordonez, is aboard that plane. The media have been banned from the airport. The plane has stopped only a few meters away from the Honduran Air Force terminal. Military vehicles with their sirens on are a few meters away from the plane ready to establish communications with the minister's kidnappers.

[Announcer] Radio America is in network with Radio Columbia of Costa Rica, and we have Ana Cecilia Espinal from Radio Columbia available so she can give us more details on how the kidnapping took place in San Jose, Costa Rica and on the reaction of the Costa Rican president's office. Good evening, Ana Cecilia.

[Espinal] Good evening. We hope the plane that has landed is the one with the minister. According to the information we have received from Minister Fishman's wife, Alda, at 0600 the minister received a call from a Honduran bishop who wanted to have an emergency meeting with him at noon. That is all she knows. The minister agreed to the meeting. He never has bodyguards with him, but this time his driver was with him. The meeting with the bishop took place at an institution along with the ambassador of Mexico. At a given moment, Orlando Ordonez, armed with a pistol, apparently interrupted and said the drivers should leave and that the minister, the bishop, and the ambassador should remain.

The four later entered a vehicle. Apparently Ordonez was persuaded to release the ambassador and the bishop. Before boarding the plane the minister called his wife and told her he had been kidnapped and to call the president. His wife called President Rafael Angel Calderon, who had been informed of the kidnapping. The president told us that he has spoken on four occasions with the president of Honduras and that the Honduran authorities are waiting for the plane to arrive at a Honduran airfield. There is no report on the reasons for the kidnapping or on demands. We are waiting for events in Honduras.

President Appoints Negotiator

PA2409021392 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0116 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The Honduran negotiator in the kidnapping case of Costa Rican Public Security Minister Luis Fishman is Presidential-designate Jacobo Hernandez. The president has appointed him to negotiate with the kidnapper. Costa Rica's consul in Tegucigalpa, Marisol de Lopez, is also at Toncontin Airport.

In a few minutes Government Minister Francisco Cardona Arguelles will speak through Radio America in Honduras and Radio Columbia in Costa Rica to report on the kidnapping of the Costa Rican public security minister.

Jacobo Hernandez apparently has already initiated the negotiations. We have information from our colleagues at the airport. Go ahead...

[Unidentified reporter] We are on the civilian side, so to speak, of Toncontin Airport. From here we can see some mobilizations but we cannot get close to the site where the negotiations are taking place. There is a great deal of secrecy. The authorities have tried to kick us out of here but they have allowed us to remain a few more minutes. A vehicle is approaching the airplane, a twin-engine aircraft. We should recall that on the occasion that two planes were hijacked the negotiations lasted approximately six hours. We will remain here to give the latest information to Radio America listeners.

Military 'Will Not Intervene'

PA2409025292 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0220 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] We have a last minute report: The military forces surrounding a twin-engine plane where the Costa Rican security minister, a bishop, and a military officer are being held hostage will not intervene so the hostages will not be endangered.

During a telephone conversation between Honduran President Rafael Callejas and his Costa Rican counterpart, Rafael Angel Calderon, Callejas assured Calderon the military forces will not intervene so Minister Luis Fishman and the other hostages—Bishop Luis Alfonso and Col. Manuel Luna, both from Honduras—will not be endangered. The three hostages were kidnapped on 23 September in San Jose by Honduran citizen Orlando Ordonez.

Presidential Spokesman on Abduction

PA2409070192 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0529 GMT 24 Sep 92

[News conference by Presidential Press Secretary Olman Serrano; place not given—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Serrano] ...doing my job. I continue to insist that no official report will be issued until the situation is resolved.

[Reporter Julio Lopez] Have you spoken with the kidnapper or the hostages?

[Serrano] Not at all. I insist that there will be no official report until the problem is completely resolved. At that time you will learn all that has transpired through the night up to the moment the situation is resolved.

[Lopez] Bishop Luis Santos and Colonel Luna reportedly were released. Are they at the air base? Have they left? Can you tell us about that?

[Serrano] We are going to issue an extensive bulletin on all that, including a chronology of the events, but this will not be released officially until tomorrow.

[Lopez] Is President Callejas still in contact with his Costa Rican counterpart?

[Serrano] He is definitely following this situation. He could not remain uninvolved. He is handling this situation through the commission that was appointed earlier, as I told you. I hope to have a complete, official bulletin for you on the events tomorrow.

[Lopez] How would you describe the situation thus far? Have the negotiations advanced? Is the kidnapper disposed to reaching a settlement? At least, is such a thing possible?

[Serrano] I cannot tell you anything at all about this, only that we will continue to handle this matter seriously and responsibly, and tomorrow you will have a complete report on what has occurred. We hope it will have been definitely resolved.

[Lopez] When you say tomorrow, should we expect the process to be lengthy?

[Serrano] No, I say tomorrow because it is another working day for us and we are handling the situation within that framework. We do not want to issue any information that does not exactly coincide with the facts.

[Station announcer] Julio Lopez, is it possible to ask Olman Serrano a question?

[Lopez] Just a moment. Other colleagues are interviewing Olman Serrano. Could you just allow me to ask an important question that cannot be overlooked? Throughout the course of this incident, the Costa Ricans have had more information than we have. We understand that there must be a serious approach to such difficult negotiations, but why is there so much silence in our country, while more information is available in Costa Rica?

[Serrano] They are one state, and we are another. They are free to handle this matter as they see fit. We believe that the best way, and the best position for the government to take, is to refrain from making any judgment until matters have been duly resolved. You have to understand that this basically is not a Honduran problem. It is a problem that has been brought to Honduras, and the Honduran state has taken certain measures to resolve it.

[Reporter] What do you know about the report that a delegation will come from Costa Rica tomorrow and that it will be made up of relatives of the hostages and Costa Rican Government officials?

[Serrano] Those reports have come from over there. We respect them, but as I have said, we are obeying our instructions not to express any judgment or opinion regarding all that has been reported today until the problem has been taken completely out of our jurisdiction and has been totally resolved.

[Reporter] Did these instructions come from President Callejas?

[Serrano] This is a decision of the Honduran Government, made by our top leader, President Callejas, in his official capacity.

[Reporter] Where the kidnapper is concerned, who is still inside the plane? Why have there been conflicting reports?

[Serrano] I wish I could answer all your questions at this time. We insist that we will provide broad and emphatic answers about events today and the solution of the problem, but it has been decided to release a generalized, detailed report when the problem has been definitely resolved.

[Reporter] Who is representing Honduras in the negotiations? How is the commission made up?

[Serrano] I can tell you this: The commission includes the president's representative, Jacobo Hernandez Cruz; Dr. Mario Rivera Lopez; Dr. Gilberto Goldstein, private secretary to the president; Dr. Francisco Cardona Arguello; and Engineer Mauro Membreno.

[Reporter] The Armed Forces commander is not part of the commission? We heard he had arrived at the Air Force base.

[Serrano] No, he has delegated specific functions to high-ranking military officers. They also have the necessary hierarchy to adopt decisions in this type of situation.

[Reporter] What about the health of Santa Rosa de Copan Bishop Santos? What can you tell us about this?

[Serrano] The topic has not been discussed. This means there is no problem in this regard.

[Reporter] Mr. Serrano, what about the health of the other persons inside the plane? This includes the pilots who, we know, are Costa Rican citizens.

[Serrano] If the issue has not been discussed or mentioned to the media it means they are all in good health.

[Reporter] We have learned the kidnapper's demands could be to exonerate him from the crimes he has perpetrated, and to release one of his brothers who is imprisoned in Honduras.

[Serrano] This is something critical, Francisco. Like I said, the government will reveal everything that has been said, and what has not been said today, and we will establish the state's position concerning this case.

[Reporter] Will the report be issued early tomorrow morning?

[Serrano] I am sure the problem will be solved and I hope to God this happens soon so we may all have satisfactory news about this new experience that all Hondurans have faced since early this evening, throughout the night, and probably early tomorrow morning.

[Reporter] Costa Rican reporters want to travel to Tegucigalpa to cover whatever incidents may occur tomorrow morning. They want all the necessary facilities. Do you think it will be feasible for them to travel to Tegucigalpa early tomorrow morning?

[Serrano] If they have the necessary means of transportation the Honduran Government and President Callejas' administration will guarantee their right to do their job, and it guarantees freedom of thought and expression. Your Costa Rican colleagues will be welcome and we will give them all the facilities we have on a reciprocal basis, so we invite them to come. They will be welcome.

[Reporter] Could our government facilitate their means of transportation?

[Serrano] No, this is a situation on which I cannot provide an answer because it involves costs that are not budgeted by the Air Force or the state. I think if they really want to cover the event [pauses] we will welcome them with pleasure and we have no objections to their coming here to cover the event in a direct and personal way.

[Reporter] Referring to what you have just revealed, meaning when you left President Callejas' house: What else has he told you? Did he say a communique would be issued in the morning?

[Serrano] No. The only thing we came to do is reassert the government's decision to handle the situation in a serious and responsible way; and to reassert things are going along fine. We expect the situation will be completely solved by tomorrow.

[Reporter] I have another question, Mr. Serrano. The Costa Rican president said the reports about demands to release one of the kidnapper's brothers are not true. What can you tell us about this?

[Serrano] Mairena, we are getting wet here because it is raining. I will answer quickly. We will issue a long bulletin tomorrow in which we will explain officially all the details of this incident. We are withholding information and refusing to talk with the media given the seriousness of the case and its implications. Tomorrow you will be the first to know all the details of the situation, and the Honduran Government's official position.

Border Commission, Security Council Meet 21 Sep

PA2309142192 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Sep 92 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The national commission in charge of resolving problems on the Salvadoran border resulting from the decision handed down by the International Court of Justice [ICJ], met on 21 September with the National Security Council to examine the current situation in the region.

The meeting took place at the government building under the auspices of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and in the presence of Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir and the Armed Forces branch commanders.

"At this meeting, the president established a number of general guidelines that will enable us to work within the national commission and with the Salvadoran commission," said Deputy Foreign Minister Jaime Guell Bogran. The commissions will be officially established on 29 September in San Salvador during a visit to that country by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, he added.

Guell Bogran explained that proposals, problem areas, and other issues that will be broached with the Salvadoran commission were examined at the National Security Council meeting.

He announced that at the latest on 2 October the commissions from both countries will have a plan and a schedule through which to gradually resolve the human problems that have emerged in the recovered areas.

"A great deal of attention is being paid to detail in a very tactful and careful manner to establish proposals that

will prove acceptable, executable within the short term, and in accordance with every aspect of the ICJ decision," he said.

Guell Bogran said the area formerly known as the Nahuaterique pocket is "the most difficult area," because supporters of El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) are present in the area.

The diplomat said the Salvadoran residents of the sector "are not resisting" the implementation of the ICJ decision, "but they are concerned because they have lived in the area for many years and want their rights to be respected. Honduras must deal with that in accordance with Honduran law."

Guell Bogran said the Honduran Armed Forces' presence is already clearly established in certain border areas, but in other regions its presence will intensify gradually. "It is a matter of doing everything calmly, at a good pace, and with good handwriting to avoid mistakes that could lead to confrontations or unnecessary conflicts."

He said that civilian and police authorities will be sent to these areas, but Honduras is clearly aware of its right to exercise full sovereignty over the recovered areas.

Nicaragua

Army Spokesman on Operations Against Recontras

PA2309143892 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Sandinist People's Army Spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock Roman has said that operation Upsurge 92 [Repunte 92], which the Army is conducting in remote mountainous areas, does not represent a war of equal magnitude to the 10-year war waged against the Nicaraguan Resistance.

[Begin recording] [Wheelock] The operation has followed its normal course. These are small groups of criminals who are being [word indistinct] by the Army. We will provide a detailed report on the operation in due time.

I want to reaffirm that we are not aware of the reports that some of these groups have fled into Honduras. Approximately two weeks ago, Honduran intelligence forces informed us that they would carry out an operation on the banks of the Rio Coco against persons who smuggle wood. Outside of that movement, there is no [words indistinct] movement at the border.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] these operations conducted by the Army [words indistinct] President Chamorro by a decision of the Army High Command?

[Wheelock] All the decisions made by the Army come from the Army High Command.

[Reporter] There is talk about a resumption of the war. What can you tell us about that?

[Wheelock] There is no such thing as a resumption of the war. We are carrying out an operation against small groups [words indistinct] that engage in robbery, cattle rustling, property violations, and a series of other crimes. We will continue to pursue these groups.

[Reporter] How many clashes have taken place as part of this operation?

[Wheelock] I will report that information during the course of the week. I cannot act like a meteorology station reporting that there was one yesterday and there will be another tomorrow. We will provide general reports on the clashes.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Wheelock] That is not true. First, the Army [words indistinct] 17,000 men. Second, the smaller [words indistinct] the more difficult it is to operate it. [Words indistinct] a security mechanism and we work on the information that we have to pursue these groups. Many groups have already been dismantled.

[Reporter] How many groups have been dismantled?

[Wheelock] More than 40.

[Reporter] Last week, for example, Lt. Cols. Pedro Aburcia and Rodrigo Gonzalez of Region 6 reported that there were clashes [words indistinct]

[Wheelock] I am not denying that clashes have taken place. What I am saying is that we are going to compile all this information, which I will later report to you in a concise manner.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Wheelock] Last week.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] operations coordinated with the Honduran Army to avoid armed acts at the border?

[Wheelock] We have an agreement with the Honduran Army that includes several aspects. The first agreements refers to the strengthening of security at the border to prevent gun running. In addition, there is an agreement to control cattle rustling. In general, we are coordinating our efforts to fight all crimes perpetrated at the border.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Wheelock] [Words indistinct] such large amount [words indistinct].

[Reporter] How long will operation Upsurge 92 last?

[Wheelock] This is very difficult to determine. The operations have a series of objectives. If the objectives of

the operation are met in two days [words indistinct], if they are met in five days it will last five days. [end recording]

PRN Demands End to EPS Operations in North

PA2409043992 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Resistance Party in Managua on 22 September]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance Party, PRN, informs the Nicaraguan people of its concern about the repression the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] has unleashed in the northern area of the country. Under the pretext that it is conducting a cleanup operation, the EPS is practicing indiscriminate repression of former fighters, repatriated peasants, supporters of the Nicaraguan Resistance, and peasants in general. Our concern is all the more valid when we consider the fact that peaceful means have not been exhausted to encourage a large number of former rebels to return peacefully to civilian life. Overwhelmed by socioeconomic problems and constantly harassed by political adversaries, they have taken up arms, a desperate alternative to protect their lives and that of their families.

In view of the above, and considering the urgent need to end the indiscriminate slaughter that can reach unforeseen and uncontrollable levels—because for every action there is a reaction—we are demanding that the national government and the guarantors of our demobilization agreements end the EPS operations. Negotiations should begin to achieve disarmament and bring peace to the affected areas, as has been done in the past. The specter of a new civil war, something nobody wants in this country, is looming stronger than ever today in the future of our suffering Nicaragua.

[Issued] Managua, 22 September 1992
[Signed] PRN President Luis Angel Lopez and National Secretary Luis Fley Gonzalez

Reorganization of State Institutions Considered

PA2409005092 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] To make up for a 10-percent raise in inflation rates, a reduction of international aid, and increased foreign debt in the next three years, the government is considering a new reorganization in several state institutions. Hundreds of people will lose their jobs in the nonfinancial public sector. An interministerial team and an institutional team will be formed for the reorganization, which will be managed by the Presidency Ministry. These two teams will decide on the (?transfer) or elimination of projects and activities in the nonfinancial public sector that do not respond strictly to national priorities contemplated in the government's economic and social program. The institutional team will be formed by the Presidency Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and [words indistinct]. This team will set guidelines for merging, disintegrating, and incorporating state institutions regarded as unnecessary. In addition, the team will decentralize the administration of ministries. The accounting and auditing departments will be reorganized so they can handle the proper resources to implement this policy.

The reorganization of public expenditures will be made more reasonable. For that purpose, the following steps will be taken: INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy], INAA [Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute], Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], and INSS [Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security] will be managed by the Ministry of the Presidency; IRENA [Institute of Natural Resources] and INRA [National Institute for Agrarian Reform] by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; INAP [Nicaraguan Public Administration Institute] and the National Council of Universities by the Ministry of Education; INETER [Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies] and Enabus [National Bus Enterprise] by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation; [words indistinct] by the National Assembly, and so on.

Argentina

New Round of Talks on Falklands Announced

PY2409034292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0220 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report by special correspondent]

[Excerpt] United Nations, 23 Sep (TELAM)—The British Government "is convinced that if hydrocarbons are found in the Malvinas Islands, cooperation must be agreed upon with Argentina to continue with the prospecting work."

This announcement was made tonight by Foreign Relations Under Secretary Rogelio Pfirter, at the end of an unexpected meeting between Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Foreign Office Vice Minister Tristan Garel Jones. During the meeting, they tried to overcome the diplomatic incident caused by London's unilateral decision to call for a bid for oil prospecting in the controversial archipelago.

Official contacts between the [words indistinct] ended yesterday with a meeting of foreign ministers. The two delegations deemed it necessary to hold a new meeting "to smooth things over and to clarify positions on the issue." Therefore, they met unexpectedly for 30 minutes at the office of the Argentine mission to the United Nations.

Pfirter stated that Di Tella and Jones—who represented Douglas Hurd, the foreign and commonwealth affairs secretary of state, who left for London today—held a "cordial" dialogue and reaffirmed their positions to observe the formula of the umbrella on the protection of the archipelago's sovereignty.

In reply to questions by journalists who met in the adjacent dining room of the UN Security Council session room, Pfirter said that after exchanging some opinions, Jones reaffirmed to Di Tella that the British Government "will not prevent Argentine enterprises from participating" in the oil prospecting in the Malvinas continental platform.

During the meeting, the two officials stated that British media "caused an incident." They also voiced their wish "to overcome it as soon as possible by resorting to all possible dialogue between the parties."

They also agreed that, given the existence of the umbrella formula, "no action carried out by the British Government will improve its situation regarding the Argentine sovereignty claim but it also will not harm Argentina."

In reply to a question, Pfirter admitted that the British announcement to authorize oil exploration "caused a [word indistinct] impact among the Argentine public." He also recalled the warning made by the Argentine Foreign Ministry, which had said that "the government will not recognize the legality of the measure because it is a disputed zone."

Pfirter said that during the conversation—in which the two ministers spoke in Spanish and English—they reasserted the will of the two governments to "encourage economic and financial development" given the interest demonstrated by the United Kingdom to participate in the privatization process implemented by the Argentine Government. [passage omitted]

Cavallo on Debt Negotiation, Sale of YPF

PY2309224092 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Interview with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo by Jorge Fontana in Washington—live]

[Text] [Fontana] Minister Domingo Cavallo, Jorge Fontana greets you from Radio Nacional, good morning.

[Cavallo] How are you, Jorge?

[Fontana] How are you, minister?

[Cavallo] Very well.

[Fontana] In good spirits?

[Cavallo] Yes, we had very positive meetings here in Washington. Yesterday we were able to overcome the latest hurdle in our path to the complete renegotiation of our foreign debt. These meetings were very important.

[Fontana] You not only are a negotiator or the person responsible for our economy, you also are a keen observer of the way we Argentine people interpret what Argentine people do. What was the reaction to your discussions.

[Cavallo] Our country has received important support from multilateral credit organizations, the U.S. Government, and bankers. We obtained a pardon on part of the debt and an interest rate reduction on the outstanding debt. This will allow as to allocate only 2 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP] to fulfill our obligations and avoid previous delays. Some years ago we allocated as much as 7 percent of our GDP to service the debt. This meant that we had very little left for other important projects. This normalization of relations with the foreign financial world will allow the participation of new investors in our economy. It will allow capital that fled the country to return. All this will encourage increased economic activity in industries and rural areas, resulting in new jobs and more economic growth. We are viewed in a brighter, clearer light today. We are seen as a country where you can send goods and capital and where you can find investment opportunities and growth. It is a very positive outcome, Jorge.

[Fontana] How important is the privatization of YPF [Government Oil Deposits] for Argentina's economy?

[Cavallo] It is very important for oil-producing provinces and pensioners to authorize YPF's privatization. The share sale's proceeds will be very well handled by

those who purchase them and who will direct the company in the future. Besides, the company will operate in a competitive climate. This will assure us that it will be managed well. Privatization will allow oil-producing provinces, which did not receive all they deserved on account of royalties, to collect their debts from the nation.

The same thing will happen with pensioners. President Menem's government has recognized the debt that accumulated from not paying pensioners what the law ordered. Today this debt has been recognized but we still have to pay it. We will pay this debt by generating income through the sale of YPF shares so that each pensioner holding the paper called Bocon, or Social Security Consolidation Bond, can exchange it for cash. This will allow pensioners to solve their most critical problems.

[Fontana] Can we say then that this has been one of your most important and substantial visits to the United States?

[Cavallo] Well, Argentina's participation in these meetings, particularly in the annual IMF and World Bank meeting, always have been important. This year our participation was more important because of our debt negotiation. You are right; we have achieved very important, very good things for the country.

[Fontana] When are you coming back?

[Cavallo] I should be back this weekend.

[Fontana] I thank you very much, minister. I know there are many foreign journalists waiting to hear from you. Thank you for talking with Radio Nacional. We thank you very much and have a good trip back.

[Cavallo] Thank you and good-bye.

Bolivia

President Responds to Bush on U.S. Aid

PY2309190692 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] During a brief stopover in Santa Cruz de la Sierra on his way to the United States, President Paz Zamora stated yesterday that Bolivia has never sought charity, has merely sought to attract foreign investments.

He added that at the UN General Assembly, UNGA, Bolivia will request the support of the international community to end its landlocked situation and to obtain greater support for its struggle against drug trafficking.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] [words indistinct] President George Bush, but charity, never! Bolivia has never sought charity. We want to be a good partner in the struggle against trafficking; a good partner in the Americas Initiative program; and a good partner in the protection of the environment. [end recording]

This was Paz Zamora's answer when asked about President Bush's stance on U. S. economic aid to Third World countries. Bush said that there will be no more charity and propounded a comprehensive reappraisal of U.S. aid to Third World countries.

Arrest of Shining Path Members Denied

PY2409025692 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] International news agencies reported that Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori had said that Shining Path members were detained in Bolivia. When learning of these reports, the Bolivian Interior Undersecretariat ratified what (?it said) yesterday. That is, that the Interior Undersecretariat has not received any information confirming such reports.

As is known by the public, a report from Peru states that President Fujimori had said that important Shining Path activists who escaped from Peru were arrested in Bolivia. This subject was clarified today by Interior Under Secretary Marco Antonio Oviedo during a news conference. He said that during his administration no Shining Path activists were held or are being held in Bolivian prisons or in any other public office. This can be confirmed by the Bolivian police operations and intelligence organizations, he said:

[Begin recording] No Shining Path activists were detained in Bolivia. There currently are no arrested Shining Path activists in Bolivia. This is the official information we are giving to the media today.

We congratulated President Fujimori for his achievements in the antiterrorist struggle in Peru, but we regret the release of information that was never (?given) in the Republic of Bolivia.

Given the responsibility with which we handle the terrorist problem in Bolivia, we obviously would have informed the Bolivian public through the media if such a case had happened in the national territory. I reiterate, the presence and much less the arrest of Shining Path members in Bolivia never took place here in either the past or currently. [end recording]

The interior under secretary added that our borders, especially with Peru, are under permanent patrol and safeguarded by the Bolivian intelligence and operations organizations.

Brazil

Supreme Court Judgment on Injunction Begins

PY2309225892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Relay by Salete Sobreira from the Federal Supreme Court]

[Text] The Federal Supreme Court [STF] is judging the injunction filed by the government against the rules established by the Chamber of Deputies president for the voting session on the impeachment request for the president of the Republic.

Of the nine justices who are judging the issue, so far five have expressed their vote in favor of holding an open voting session on the impeachment request. This practically defines the STF position.

The five justices who already have voted are Otavio Galloti, Ilmar Galvao, Carlos Mario Velloso, Celso de Mello, and Sepulveda Pertence. When justifying his vote, STF Coordinator Otavio Galloti said that although the people's vote is secret, the vote of the elected representatives is open.

The STF judgment on the injunction filed by the government began today at 1500 [1800 GMT]. The session was opened a little before 1400 by STF President Sydney Sanches, after which STF Coordinator Otavio Galloti immediately proceeded to read a long report on his evaluation of the injunction filed by the government. After Galloti spoke, Jose Guillerme Villela, private lawyer for President Fernando Collor, spoke, then Luiz Carlos Lopes Madeira, lawyer for Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro, and then Attorney General Aristides Junqueira.

Justice Sepulveda Pertence expressed his decision a few minutes ago. The next justice to make a decision is Paulo Brossard. After him will come Justices Neri da Silveira, Moreira Alves, and Sydney Sanchez. The STF president also will make a decision because this is a constitutional subject. The STF session was just called off for a 10-minute recess. We therefore still do not know when the judgment will conclude.

[Later in the same broadcast, it is reported from the STF that its recess has ended, and the session is expected to end at 0000 GMT on 24 September.]

Request for Secret Vote Rejected

PY2409003692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0009 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Live relay by Alexandre Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] The Federal Supreme Court already has made a decision. Court member Neri da Silveira has just cast his vote. He voted for the open voting system, meaning that the vote now stands at seven to zero. This means that a final decision already has been made in favor of the open voting system.

Silveira also voted for restricting the president's right to defense to the terms that already have been granted through a preliminary court decision. This means that the right to defense will be ruled by the Chamber of Deputies regulations because the vote on this matter now stands at five to two, and this means that a final decision already has been made. There are only two court members who still have to cast their votes.

Open Vote Approved

PY2409014292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Live relay by Alexandre Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] A historical judgment has just ended at the Federal Supreme Court [STF]. The eighth vote was cast for the injunction, that is, for a secret vote [in the Chamber of Deputies on the request for President Fernando Collor's impeachment] and for the extension of [Collor's] right to defense. This eighth vote was cast by Justice Moreira Alves, a former STF president.

STF President Sidney Sanchez' final vote produced the following score [preceding word in English]: eight to one. Thus, it has been decided that the vote will be open.

The STF supported the restriction on the right to defense, limited to what was granted already in the preliminary injunction, that is, the STF is reporting to the Chamber of Deputies the result it already had to produce [based on the tally before the voting was complete]; the result was six to three [against the extension of Collor's right to defense].

Communications Secretary Nelson Marchezan has just announced that tomorrow he will leave the Communications Secretariat.

Opposition Claims 360 Votes for Impeachment

PY2309204292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Opposition party presidents have arrived in Brasilia to attend the vote on impeachment at the Federal Supreme Court [STF]. The main objective of the pro-impeachment front now is to secure the votes of those who still are undecided.

Those who defend the impeachment came to the STF early. Political observers also came. Deputy Roseana Sarney submitted a detailed list of the undecided.

The Federal District drew attention because Governor Joaquim Roriz's bloc has 19 undecided both in Goias and the Federal District. It is up to former President Jose Sarney to convince the governor to oppose the federal government, which is his only source of support. But the opposition already has guaranteed that it has everything to gain.

[Begin Sarney recording] We have gathered 360 votes, which is enough to approve the impeachment, but those who want to work should continue doing so. [end recording]

The party presidents who defend the impeachment now are attacking on all fronts. They came to the National

Accounting Office to request the dismissal of the presidents of the Bank of Brazil and the Federal Revenue Office. In the afternoon they will go to the STF to support the open vote and the impeachment procedure.

Court Authorizes Live Coverage of Session

PY2309190292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Security has been reinforced outside the Federal Supreme Court [STF], in the Tres Poderes Square. From early this morning television stations began assembling the equipment they will use to broadcast today's plenary session. Supreme Court President Sydney Sanchez authorized the coverage.

[Begin Sanchez recording] People are interested in what will happen at the court. They will see more if they stay at home and do not come to the court building. [end recording]

Of the 11 justices that make up the STF, two said they will abstain from voting but will participate in the session. They are Francisco Rezek, a former foreign minister of Fernando Collor's government, and Marco Aurelio Farias de Mello, the president's cousin.

Here is the list of justices who will vote:

Ilmar Galvao, 59, who was appointed by President Collor last year; Mario Velloso, 56, appointed by President Collor in 1990; Celso de Mello, 46, appointed by President Jose Sarney in 1989; Sepulveda Pertence, appointed by President Sarney in 1989; Paulo Brossard, 67, appointed by President Sarney in 1989; Otavio Gallotti, coordinator, appointed by President Joao Figueiredo in 1984; Sydney Sanchez, STF president, 59, appointed by President Figueiredo in 1984; Neri da Silveira, 60, appointed by President Figueiredo in 1981; and Jose Carlos Moreira Alves, 59, appointed by President Ernesto Geisel in 1975.

The session will begin when the coordinator, Justice Otavio Gallotti, presents his report on the case. The president's lawyer and the attorney general will speak soon after. They will have just 15 minutes. The justices will then vote, beginning with Otavio Gallotti.

Federal Police To File Charges Against Collor

PY2409035292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Sep 92 p 7

[By Coeli Mendes]

[Excerpts] Brasilia—After four months of investigation and after listening to hundreds of witnesses, the Federal Police will file charges early next week against entrepreneur Paulo Cesar [PC] Farias as coprincipal in the crimes of active corruption, illegal association, and forgery of documents. A policeman who has access to the inquest yesterday reported that President Fernando Collor will be the principal. [passage omitted]

PC Farias' indictment and the Federal Police report to the Federal Supreme Court, indicating President Fernando Collor as the principal in the crimes of illegal association, corruption, and forgery of documents, closes, in the Federal Police area, the phase of investigations of the charges against the Alagoas State entrepreneur. A policeman who has access to the investigations announced: "The information released about PC's microcomputer is of a general nature because the most overwhelming details are reserved for the final confrontation, during his testimony." That surprise element also will be reserved for former [private presidential] Secretary Claudio Vieira. [passage omitted]

Demonstrations Staged in Recife, Salvador

PY2409025092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] The Military Police reported that approximately 300,000 people yesterday staged a demonstration in Recife in support of the impeachment of President Collor. Students dressed in black, green, and yellow and members of parties and labor unions participated in the colorful and amusing demonstration that ended in a rally on Dantas Barreto Avenue in downtown Recife. Governor Joaquin Francisco Cavalcanti, from the Liberal Front Party, released civil servants from their duties and advised on the demonstration's organization, but decided not to participate even though he has severed relations with Collor.

The Military Police also reported that about 20,000 people—the organizers estimated approximately 100,000—attended a rally at Castro Alves Square in Salvador. Workers Party President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva attended the rally. People mocked Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes and Federal Deputy Pedro Irujo, candidate of the National Reconstruction and Brazilian Democratic Movement Party coalition for the Salvador city hall. Irujo, who broke relations with Collor, participated for the first time in a demonstration in support of impeachment.

Authority for Indian Land Demarcation Debated

PY2309194092 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Senate will debate this week a bill on the constitutional amendment that conditions to congressional approval the president of the Republic's acts regarding the demarcation of Indian land.

A group of 33 senators believes the issue must also be examined by the legislative branch. Their argument is that the executive branch often yields to international pressure when it unilaterally demarcates the land.

Currently, the exploitation and use of water and mineral resources existing on Indian land must be authorized by

Congress, but only the executive branch has the authority to demarcate the areas.

Chile

Army's Lucar Denies Telephone Tapping Charge

PY2309232492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Army Deputy Commander in Chief Jorge Lucar made some remarks a few minutes ago. Here is a report by journalist Gerardo Beltran from the Defense Ministry.

[Begin recording] [Beltran] Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar, the acting Army commander in chief, has flatly rejected charges that Army Intelligence Directorate personnel allegedly are engaged in telephone tapping. The Army officer made this remark before meeting with acting Defense Minister Enrique Krauss Rusque, to whom he delivered a written report on what happened with these charges that were broadcast last night by Television Nacional de Chile.

In this regard, Gen. Lucar described the event as a case that must be repudiated due to its procedure, merit, and format.

[Lucar] This was a case that must be repudiated due to its procedure, its merit, and its format. [words indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] [words indistinct] charges, general?

[Lucar] I flatly reject it. Of course, I reject it. It is untrue.

[Beltran] Gen. Lucar and acting Defense Minister Enrique Krauss now are meeting on the Defense Ministry's 22d floor. They have been there a few minutes now.

There is great excitement here among the journalists, who expect both Minister Krauss and Gen. Lucar to leave any minute and make remarks to the media. [end recording]

Economy Minister Says Case 'Serious'

PY2309235892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Economy Minister Carlos Ominami considers the organized spying activity with sophisticated equipment and the deployment of personnel financed by the state, and thus, by the contributions of all Chileans, extremely serious.

The minister said that this must be thoroughly investigated because it no longer is an isolated case but a systematic action that seriously undermines the established democracy:

[Begin recording] If the report released yesterday is confirmed, I think we are facing an extremely serious event. A few days ago we thought that the spying episodes were rather isolated or personal. But I insist that if this report is confirmed, we are no longer facing isolated cases but a policy implemented in a broad manner and with the use of sophisticated equipment and hundreds of employees working, and this represents a systematic violation of an essential human right, which is the right to privacy. [end recording]

The minister made this statement at noon today in Valparaiso, where he was participating in a ceremony for the placing of the cornerstone of a building that will be the Superior School of Hotel and Tourism in Vina del Mar. It will be built on the border between Valparaiso and Vina del Mar.

The minister also expressed agreement with remarks made this morning by Senator Laura Soto, who said in Congress that the situation is sufficient to consider an impeachment, and that the Army commander in chief also should give an explanation. Both the minister and the senator said the Army budget must be thoroughly analyzed to consider the existence of a specialized intelligence group that might carry out its task against civilians and especially against politicians.

The minister added that financing the spy system with the contribution of all Chileans is very unjust. He said that no spy system should exist anymore.

Krauss Satisfied With Lucar Report

PY2409000292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] In a note released to the press a few minutes ago, Interior Minister and current acting Defense Minister Enrique Krauss expressed satisfaction with the report and explanation given by Army Deputy Commander and current Army Commander General Jorge Lucar on the report aired by Television Nacional, charging Army Intelligence Directorate personnel with telephone spying.

[Begin recording] [Krauss] As far as I am concerned, I am satisfied. I asked Gen. Lucar yesterday to give an explanation on the telephone spying case, and his explanation was fully satisfactory. He was categorical in saying that what was said is not true. That is what interests me.

[Unidentified reporter] But the building mentioned in the report definitely belongs to the Army.

[Krauss] For several years it has been a military building. And in fact, an intelligence service is operating there. We have known for a long time that a military intelligence service exists in the Chilean Army as in all armies throughout the world.

Now, it is different when the apparatus, the system, the infrastructure, and the logistics intended for military intelligence are used for other objectives. But Gen. Lucar and General Eugenio Covarrubias have been categorical in stating that the intelligence service is exclusively of a military nature. [end recording]

This is the statement made by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, who expressed his satisfaction with the explanation given by acting Army Commander Lieutenant Gen. Jorge Lucar on the telephone spying case.

Lucar Orders 'State of Alert'

PY2409145592 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Following reactions to the denunciation of telephone spying by the Army, the newspaper LA EPOCA reported today that at 1615 yesterday the Army was declared in a state of alert through an order issued by Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar, who signed it as acting commander in chief of the Army.

The order states that all military personnel from the different garrisons and units must be at the disposal of their superiors for quick reference and deployment. According to the established rules for these events, at least one-sixth of the personnel must report to their units and remain within the military garrisons. Moreover, the garrisons and units must strengthen their guards, and quick reaction units must be established.

The first order to remain in the garrisons and establish the special units is assigned to single personnel, while those who are married receive instructions to remain at home and to be in continuous contact with their units.

Military sources have reported that the state of alert, which is a step below the order for confinement to barracks, was decided by the top Army command upon evaluating the demonstrations staged in front of the Army Intelligence Battalion on Garcia Reyes Street, near Alameda Avenue.

According to reliable sources the government was also briefed during the afternoon by a uniformed official who explained the need to strengthen security in the garrisons, as a large number of personnel are enjoying the vacations which are usually granted to them after the national holidays.

The Army command probably feared that the situation could run out of control when reporters, photographers, and cameramen tried to take pictures of the inside of the building, and because a plainclothes agent fired warning shots from inside the building against a LA TERCERA DE LA HORA photographer who had reportedly climbed a wall to take pictures.

We must add that this report on the Army state of alert is also included in other morning newspapers, such as LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, which also attributes the report to military sources.

Army Defending DINE Building

PY2409142792 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] On Garcia Reyes Street near the corner of Alameda Avenue an Army patrol comprised of more than eight uniformed men carrying weapons and sleeping bags entered the building where telephone spying is reportedly carried out.

According to reports issued by photographers and reporters posted there, the troops launched tear gas grenades more than three times against those who got close to the building's gate.

Before the arrival of the patrol group at the Army Intelligence Battalion, one of the guards who was inside the building fired his weapon in the air to prevent LA TERCERA DE LA HORA photographer Manuel Gonzalez from taking a picture of the place. After the incident the photographer explained what happened:

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] When I tried to take a picture, one of the guards here at the gate covered his face, raised his pistol, and fired a shot in the air.

[Unidentified reporter] Did he aim at you?

[Gonzalez] Yes.

[Reporter] Did he hurt you?

[Gonzalez] No. Only [words indistinct]. [end recording]

A demonstration was also staged on Garcia Reyes Street by active members of the Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement, who in addition to displaying picket signs also expressed their dissatisfaction with the presence of this organization in this place.

After these activities the Army Intelligence Battalion building has been strongly guarded by civilian and uniformed Army troops.

Army Security 'Reinforced'

PY2409142592 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0225 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Asked about an alleged state of alert in the Army, Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, answered that the Army has only reinforced barracks security. The minister also talked about a meeting this morning with members of the Television Nacional de Chile board of directors.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] Minister, is it true that the Army is on a state of alert?

[Correa] The Army has seemingly taken special precautions to protect their premises, in case they are besieged by reporters or people interested in learning more about this espionage case. The Army thought it necessary to take special measures, and informed the acting defense minister about them. Those measures are within the commander in chief's prerogatives. [end recording]

Colombia

Representatives Comment on Gaviria's Absolution

PA2409005292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report Guillermo Gonzalez]

[Text] The political trial of the government to determine responsibility for the Escobar escape must continue in Congress until this matter finally is settled even though the Chamber of Representatives absolved President Gaviria completely, said Chamber of Representatives Second Commission legislators.

The legislators, who did not vote favorably on a proposal debated on the evening of 22 September at the Chamber of Representatives to absolve President Gaviria of any responsibility in Escobar's escape, added that the political trial against the government must continue until those culprits are found and punished in exemplary fashion.

[Begin recording] [Representative Manuel Velasquez] We think it is untimely to absolve or condemn the president when this process of hearing officials, including the president of the republic himself, has not been completed yet.

[Representative Guillermo Martinez] The debate is not over, it continues. I wish to say I cast a blank vote, because I can neither condemn nor absolve the president without hearing him speak.

[Representative Jairo Clopatofsky] That was a hasty decision. We know well—I have said this before—that the Congress is virtually kneeling before the government. [end recording]

Lack of Protection for Judges 'Denounced'

PA2409001292 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 20 Sep 92 p 10

[Text]National Tribunal President Alfredo del Toro Nunez denounced the lack of government protection given faceless judges and said "only alarming information leaks could undermine the secrecy surrounding the judges' identities, the purpose of which is to ensure their safety."

Del Toro Nunez suggested that the narcoterrorist criminals, with their enormous economic power, may "have organized an espionage system to avail themselves of information regarding the faceless judges."

He reiterated that the criminals have their sights on the seven regional judges in Medellin, some of whom have already received death threats similar to those received by Judge Myriam Rocio Velez weeks before she was murdered on 16 September near her residence in the southern part of Medellin.

Del Toro Nunez asserted that the National Tribunal is angered and surprised that "only one van provides transportation for the seven Medellin judges."

"It means that at any moment all of them could become the criminals' victims."

"The Court," he added, "will continue to insist that the government guarantee the safety of the justices and judges who must deal with the most serious crimes. It is obvious that for this very reason the criminals always get away with murder."

Del Toro Nunez insisted that Judge Myriam Rocio Velez, despite the dangerous nature of the files she was processing and the threats she received because of them, "did not have effective government protection."

Despite her condition as a "faceless judge," Rocio Velez was identified by a dangerous criminal she had sentenced months earlier. That individual regularly sent her threats from the Bellavista jail in northern Medellin where he is serving his sentence.

The National Tribunal president said "it is necessary to implement a serious plan to adjust the security measures for the faceless judges. Events have proven that the special judicial system has been infiltrated."

"What other valid explanation could there be for the fact that the judges' names, personal addresses, and movements are known as in the case of Doctor Myriam?" he emphasized.

In a bitter tone Del Toro Nunez said: "If information is being leaked due to human error, it is urgent to redouble security measures. There is no question that whoever is leaking the information is as much a criminal as the individual who fires the murder weapon."

Alluding to the degree of moral decadence that characterizes various social sectors, Alfredo del Toro Nunez said: "It is not strange that a few bad Colombians are cooperating with criminals by pointing out which judges are conducting certain legal affairs."

The National Tribunal will meet on 21 September with members of the Judiciary High Council and will request a hearing with Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez to report the lack of protection that most faceless judges are encountering. The National Tribunal will seek an evaluation of the existing security mechanisms and introduce corrective measures.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen To Attend UN General Assembly

PA2309232092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2141 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Quito, 23 Sep (NOTIMEX)—It was announced officially on 23 September that Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen will travel to New York on 24

September to participate in the 47th UN General Assembly. The president of Ecuador, the country that chairs the UN Security Council in September, will participate in the world forum's 47th assembly on Friday, 25 September.

Duran-Ballen will meet with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and the 47th General Assembly chairman before addressing the plenum. That same day he will attend a lunch in his honor, hosted by the American Society, and he will meet separately with members of the Ecuadoran-American Association and Columbia University authorities. The Ecuadoran president's official agenda for his three-day visit to New York includes meetings with some of his counterparts who are attending the UN meeting. His return is scheduled for Sunday evening, 27 September.

The 71-year-old president will depart from Quito's "Mariscal Sucre" Airport en route to New York approximately three hours after the conclusion of a 24-hour, countrywide strike which began at 0600 on 23 September. The general strike, the first his government faces after being sworn in 43 days ago, has cast doubts about the Ecuadoran president's participation in the UN General Assembly's debates. The strike was organized by Ecuadoran labor unions to protest the severe economic adjustment plan adopted by the government on 3 September.

Minister on Associate Member Status in OPEC

PA2309201592 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Energy Minister Andres Barreiro said in Brussels on 22 September that in November Ecuador may become an associate member of OPEC, enabling it to expand its petroleum production and increase its revenue from crude sales by 50 percent.

In Venezuela, Energy Minister Olirio Parra said that an agreement among the OPEC ministers will set the quota for Ecuador if the ordinary OPEC conference decides that Ecuador will become an associate member. Parra explained to the Venezuelan media on 22 September that Ecuador has not withdrawn definitely from the OPEC. Instead, it requested a change of category from full member to associate member.

According to an EFE report from Brussels, Barreiro said the production ceilings set by OPEC harm the country's economic growth. The objective of national growth is hindered by the OPEC policy. Ecuador's departure from OPEC will not cause an imbalance in OPEC, but for the country this is very important to improve its revenues and the Ecuadoreans' standard of living, Barreiro said.

The options open to OPEC in November are to have Ecuador continue as an associate, observer country or as a full member with rights and obligations that would be frozen for three years.

Peru

Fujimori on Death Penalty, Nov Elections

PA2309220692 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has reiterated he favors the death penalty for the leader of the bloody, genocidal Shining Path. He also spoke of the Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, ensuring its autonomy and immunity, but not impunity, he said, for the fulfillment of the duties of the congress members.

[Begin Fujimori recording] If I were a real dictator, he would be sentenced to death. He really deserves it. I am convinced that the man deserves the death penalty. Our hands, however, are somewhat tied. We have laws, agreements, the San Jose agreement—an international agreement that prevents us from applying this penalty. We are following with much interest all the suggestions on how to allow us to apply it eventually. I do not want to anticipate things. I am convinced, however, based on judgments passed by the United Nations and the OAS which describe Guzman as genocidal, that he deserves the death penalty. [applause]

I also want to reiterate that the total autonomy to be enjoyed by the CCD, according to the decree convoking it, will be respected by the executive branch. The powers of the CCD to enact new laws or to modify or expand the existing ones will not be questioned by the government. There is no intention, therefore, to impose limitations. The existing provisions are the same ones that were applied in similar processes previously carried out. The positions are appropriate for the circumstances of this particular election process. We promote and encourage the participation of all Peruvians in the November elections. This intention is complemented by the total autonomy of the National Election Board [JNE]. We are totally confident, therefore, that the JNE will consider justly and impartially all the petitions presented by the political groups so that the shared objective of the total participation of all Peruvians in the country's political process will be facilitated adequately.

My government considers all conditions are set to carry out the election process. From our standpoint, therefore, there is no need to make further modifications. I expect, therefore, the participation of the largest number of political organizations, of independent tickets, and of youths above all, and that the process will begin to warm up in a civilized and democratic manner. [end recording]

Fujimori on Guzman's Likely Successors

PA2309132692 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] In a news conference with foreign reporters at the Government Palace, President Alberto Fujimori said the Peruvian people helped authorities capture the Shining

Path leadership. He reiterated that within one or two years Peru will be a country where peace will prevail.

The chief of state stated that special installations are being furnished to prevent Guzman's escape.

[Begin Fujimori recording] Contrary to what Shining Path propaganda sectors claim abroad, it is not true that Shining Path enjoys the support of the population. That is not true. On the contrary, here in Peru the people have mobilized and even organized themselves against the terrorist phenomenon. This organization and mobilization has helped authorities seize the members of the Shining Path leadership.

Obviously, it is expected that uncontrollable reactions could take place because at this time the operating command of the [Shining Path] Political-Military Central Committee has no chief. This could result in uncontrolled—not organized—attacks and actions. It will be some months before Shining Path is able to recover its operating capacity. Naturally, we will not allow Shining Path to recover this operating capacity.

To recover its operating capacity, Shining Path will obviously require successors to replace Abimael Guzman and his concubine Comrade Miriam [Elena Albertina Iparraguirre Revoredo].

According to the Shining Path cadres, we have identified approximately 80 percent of the leadership. The remaining 20 percent are known by their aliases. Of that 80 percent, no one is capable of assuming control of Shining Path or replacing Abimael Guzman.

There has been talk that Alberto Ramirez could replace Guzman, given the fact that he is a member of the troika. However, he is not a political leader. There has also been talk that Maximiliano Duran Araujo, the pro-Shining Path physicist who operates in Paris, could replace Guzman. But we believe that he has been out of Peru and separated from the rank and file for too long. It would be very difficult for him to assume control. [end recording]

Prior to the meeting with the foreign correspondents, the president attended the graduation ceremony of 180 students at the National Agriculture University. There he gave a speech announcing that the professors who carry out propaganda acts and use the education infrastructure to promote violent ideas among students will be considered terrorists. He explained that through a provision that will be issued soon they will receive severe sentences.

The president stated that his government will not step back in the struggle against terrorism, adding that he will not stop until the terrorists are definitely defeated.

Politburo Members Arrested With Guzman Viewed

PY2309001292 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Sep 92 p A12

[Text] The Shining Path has been virtually "decapitated" because four other Politburo members also were arrested with Abimael Guzman Reynoso, aka "Gonzalo." The Shining Path Politburo comprises nine members—six full members and three acting members.

The arrested Politburo members have been identified as Elena Albertina Iparraguirre Revoredo, aka "Miriam;" Maria Pantoja Sanchez; Laura Zamrano Padilla; and German Sipian Tavara, aka "Arturo."

Police lacked information on Sipian Tavara and Pantoja Sanchez. But the other two were well known by the Dincote [Counterterrorism Directorate].

Elena Albertina Iparraguirre, with a bachelor's in sociology, was Abimael Guzman's companion. The police found a master bedroom with a double bed on the second story of the house located in "Los Sauces" housing development, where they were arrested.

She was married to Francisco Alarco Larrabure, founder and leader of the so-called Shining Path "People's Intellectual Group" [Grupo Intelectual Popular] (GIP). After being widowed, she became Abimael Guzman's companion. Guzman also had lost his wife, Augusta La Torre.

"Miriam" became the most influential person in the Shining Path leadership. She is the one who appears dancing with "Gonzalo" in the video issued on 7 February 1991. In this recording and other photographs that were seized, she always appears next to the Shining Path leader.

Internal Shining Path reports and statements constantly mention "Miriam" as one of the main leaders of the Shining Path Central Committee and Politburo. Therefore, she also is responsible for the thousands of deaths and millions of dollars the government and the private sector have lost.

Regarding Laura Zambrano Padilla, alias "Meche," it is known that she was chief of the Shining Path Metropolitan Committee and also a Central Committee member.

She had been sentenced to a 12-year prison term for her involvement in a series of subversive attacks and killings; however, she was released on bail after serving six years in jail.

Immediately after her release from jail, she went underground and joined the Shining Path leadership.

Dincote previously has arrested several Shining Path leaders.

Among them are: Osman Morote Barrionuevo, Nelly Evans Risco de Alvarez Calderon, Elvia Zanabria Pacheco, Yovanka Pardave Trujillio, Tito Valle Travesano, and Hugo Juarez Cruzat.

Shining Path Leader Zambrano's Arrest Detailed

PY2309154392 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
16 Sep 92 pp 12-13

[Article by the "Investigative Unit"]

[Text] The second most senior leader of the Shining Path, after Abimael Guzman Reynoso, to have been caught by the Counterterrorism Directorate [Dincote] is Laura Zambrano Padilla, alias "Comrade Meche." She headed the "Lima Metropolitan Committee" [CML], the Shining Path military political apparatus which plans and implements seditious actions in the capital.

Dincote sources have confirmed that "Meche," having astutely achieving her release from the Canto Grande prison, went to Europe before returning to Lima to assume the CML command.

But her arrest is not enough. Every member of the apparatus that was under her control must also be arrested.

The CML headed the so-called "Third Campaign." It began in June 1991 and ended in August this year and, according to Guzman himself, "involved moving the theater of war from the fields to the city."

It was not just a matter of increasing armed actions in Lima: it also involved preparing the sectors that were likely to join the ranks of Shining Path. For this reason the Maoist activity was centered on the poor urban neighborhoods where the state is not concerned about social assistance and security.

Some commentators have said that the increased Shining Path activities in the capital shows that the intensity of armed actions in the field has been reduced due to the resolute action of the peasant defense patrol groups which are self motivated or organized by the security forces.

The subversives feel, however, that some strategic areas have already been "beaten" by them, and that "support bases" and "popular committees" have already been established. In the cities, however, the situation was different, and for this reason there was a need to increase Maoist political and military activity in Lima.

In other words, the onus was on the CML to even up what had been achieved in the field and to pave the way in Lima so that the towns influenced by them will be charged with preparing "resistance centers" and thus facilitate the "seizure of power." What happened in the Raucana shantytown was just an experiment.

Laura Zambrano Padilla joined the CML after her scandalous release on 3 May 1991, which was authorized by Judge Arturo Zapata Carbajal. She had been taken to the "Miguel Castro Castro Prison" on 12 July 1986, sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. In addition to taking control of the CML, she went for a short rest in Europe. She went by plane from La Paz, Bolivia.

At the time Zambrano Padilla was arrested during July 1984 in El Olivar de San Isidro—it seems that the top board has a preference for exclusive towns—she was already heading the CML, according to all indications collected by the police.

At the moment of her arrest she was accompanied by two individuals who, on seeing the detectives fled, and by the two schoolboy sons of Victor Zorrilla, a professor of the San Cristobal de Huamanga University and a member of the Shining Path Central Committee in Ayacucho. "Comrade Meche," who studied at La Cantuta, was carrying a large amount of primers, which she had purchased, according to her own confession, in Tocara. She said that "it reminded me of my childhood, because my father was a rock demolisher [demoledor de rocas]."

She admitted being an active Shining Path member, although in "theory phase" which she described as "an awareness of the need to purge all bourgeois distortions."

Before her arrest, "Comrade Meche" was involved in over a dozen cases, but within five years she was absolved of all of them:

—she was absolved twice by the 11th Lima Trial Courts; twice by the 7th; once by the 10th and once by the 13th. She was also absolved by the 3d, 5th, 13th, 24th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 36th, 38th, 42d and 46th Lima Trial Courts.

—the 6th, 11th, and 13th Lima Trial Courts, and the 1st, 28th, 44th and 36th Lima Trial Courts declared that there were no grounds upon which to try "Comrade Meche."

—the 10th, 11th, 12th and 14th Lima Trial Courts, as well as the 6th, 35th and 38th Lima Trial Courts, ordered her immediate release.

Her lawyer was none other than Martha Huatay Ruiz, former chairwoman of the Democratic Lawyers Association—an organization of the Peruvian People's Socorro [Socorro Popular del Peru] and one of those arrested along with Guzman.

The magistrates stated at the time that the evidence against "Comrade Meche" was poor and weak.

The police had charged her with planning all the attacks that were perpetrated by Shining Path between 1981 and 1983 during her time as leader of the CML.

Among the attacks attributed to her are the fire at the Bayer factory, the attack on the Armed Forces Joint Command, the attack on the Popular Action headquarters, and the aborted sabotage at the Conchan refinery.

Furthermore, Zambrano's arrest helped to datain some of her henchmen and detachment chiefs like Leonidas Ocejo Ludena and Manuel Angulo Andia, who during the legal investigation identified "Comrade Meche" as the CML chief.

Ocejo Ludena was one of those released by the "terrific judge" Arturo Zapata Carbajal, who has subsequently been fired. Ocejo, whose involvement in several attacks was proven, left the "Miguel Castro Castro" prison on 1 February 1992, shortly after Zambrano.

Zambrano Padilla informed Zapata Carbajal that she had been rehabilitated and that she was going to teach in a children's school. He believed her, overlooking the interview that "Comrade Meche" granted to the Shining Path mouthpiece EL DIARIO on 14 March 1988. In this interview, Zambrano said: "The objective of we combatants of the people's guerrilla army is to combat. Our daily life is war, we struggle to conquer power for the party and for the people, this is why we implement Gonzalo's ideas."

After her release "Meche" immediately rejoined the CML and reassumed her duties. It is no coincidence that one month after her release, Shining Path began its "Third Campaign." The main objectives of this most violent and vicious campaign were to attack the security forces and to eradicate popular leaders who oppose the Maoist presence.

To accomplish the "Third Campaign," Laura Zambrano enjoyed the support of a sophisticated apparatus.

The CML was subdivided into six regional committees: North, Central, East, West, South, and Chosica.

The CML leadership included a leader "responsible" for each of the regional committees, in addition to the overall chief, "Comrade Meche." These other leaders were known as "Kamo," "Pavel," "Rosa," "Luciano," and "Roberto." [five names as published]

The directorate also comprises organizations that are directly subordinated to it, such as the "Coordination Group" and the "Support Group." The Coordination Group is divided into two parts and its members are "Julian", "Rolando" and "Lena", "Juan", "Ricardo" and Nelina."

Dincote has established the aliases of only some of the leaders of the "regional committees." They are as follows:

a) Northern Regional Committee: "Pavel," "Mauro," "Antenor," and "Marcos."

b) Center Regional Committee: "Miguel," "Luciano," and "Isaac."

c) East Regional Committee: "Renato," "Celia," and "Rosendo."

d) West Regional Committee: "Helanie," "Rosa," and "Basilio."

e) South Regional Committee: "Javier," "Betty," "Bruno," and "Alvarado."

f) Chosica Regional Committee: "Luz," "Grimaldo," and "Tomas."

It is believed that each "regional committee" represents a number of districts where the Shining Path is active.

The CML works in close contact with the People's Defense Revolutionary Movement, MRDP. This organization in turn comprises groups that have been especially established to carry out political work in those areas that are of interest to the Shining Path, such as the Workers' Movement of Classes [Movimiento de Obreros y Trabajadores Clasistas], MOTC; the Youth Movement of Peru [Movimiento Juvenil del Peru], MJP; the People's Feminist Movement [Movimiento Femenino Popular] MFP; and the Neighborhood Movement of Classes [Movimiento Clasista Barrial].

Each of these "organizations" was generated under the MRDP directorate and each one has a grassroot organization in each "regional committee."

It must be added that the regional committees comprise "People's Army Guerrilla" cells which are subdivided into detachments, militias, and annihilation squads. Finally, the regional committees also include "schools for the people."

This apparatus is already aware of the outcome of the most recent Shining Path Central Committee plenum which assessed the "Third Campaign" and imparted guidelines for the next plenum which will be held to open the so-called "Sixth Great Plan."

Zambrano's arrest will obviously affect the CML but it does not signal the immediate dismantling of its sophisticated organizational chart.

The destruction of the CML apparatus and everything that comprises the PCP-SL [Peruvian Communist Party-Shining Path] is an objective that goes beyond police work.

That task would entail the defeat of the Shining Path in the ideological and political fields. The arrest of the Shining Path leadership in no way destroys the breeding grounds that for the past 12 years have spurred the development of the "people's war."

Moreover, it is well-known that every Maoist political-military organizations has an "Emergency Directorate" which replaces leaders killed or arrested by security forces. The Shining Path is no exception, and proof of this is that when "Meche" was arrested, she was immediately replaced by "Comrade Feliciano" who can be observed clapping his hands in the video of Guzman dancing a Greek dance.

Upon her return, "Comrade Meche" reassumed her position thus allowing "Feliciano" to grow next to Guzman.

In her capacity as CML chief, Zambrano also held a privileged position in the PCP-SL Central Committee. At the time of her arrest, Zambrano was not teaching any children. She was among the leadership, standing beside Guzman, planning increasingly appalling attacks within

the framework of the "First Campaign" of the "Sixth Great Plan" that was launched on 1 September.

The CML is responsible for all—both political and military—attacks perpetrated in the capital; for the daily assassinations of popular leaders; for the car-bombs planted in police, military, and civilian buildings; for selective crimes on high-ranking security forces officers, and for other violent actions.

The CML is also responsible for the so-called "work of the masses" where, at gunpoint, Shining Path undoubtedly exerts influence in important sectors.

It is now necessary to dismantle, piece by piece, the entire CML apparatus.

Over 100 Groups Seek To Participate in CCD

PA2309165092 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] With the participation of another four independent groups, more than 100 entities are now interested in running in the elections for the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD]. The deadline for presenting the 100,000 minimum number of signatures required and the names of the 80 candidates is 8 October. The Independent Movement National Coordinating Board, the National Coalition Independent List, the Practicing Democratic Movement, and the ENTE [expansion unknown] political organization are the last four independent groups to show interest in participating in the CCD elections. There are now 100 interested groups. An average of four groups per day have come to the National Election Board to acquire registration books. Up to now, only one of these, the Democratic Coordinating Board, has officially confirmed its participation by presenting more than 100,000 signatures, as required when registering a candidate slate.

The registers will be sold until 45 days before election day, 8 October, which is also the last day to present the required 100,000 signatures to nominate a candidate officially. Unless the Election Board changes its current schedule, that will also be the last day to submit the list of names of the 80 candidates who will run in the upcoming election.

PPC 'Only Traditional Party'

PA2209174292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The Popular Christian Party [PPC] so far is the only traditional party that has decided to participate in the Democratic Constitutent Congress [CCD] elections. In a political statement approved following the closing of its fifth plenum, which was held 18-20 September, the PPC stated that its participation in this process seeks to defend democratic institutions, and once represented in the CCD, it will try to stop the executive branch's absolutism.

The PPC has not decided yet who will head its list of candidates for the CCD elections. Lourdes Flores Nano, the new secretary general of this political organization, said party members seem to want ratified PPC President Luis Bedoya Reyes to head this list, but added there is also a move to give youths an opportunity:

[Begin Flores recording] There is an important movement within the party to have Dr. Bedoya head the PPC list for the CCD elections which would combine the strength of ideas and experience with an important renewal, involving very capable people. For the time being (Alex Curiu Machar) was among the big winners on 20 September. He is a young man who will undoubtely become an important new face in Peruvian politics. [end recording]

PPC participation in CCD elections could prompt other traditional parties to follow suit. It is expected that in the next few days the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance and Popular Action finally will decide to participate, because there is a strong movement within their rank and file to participate in the elections that will mark the return to democratic institutionality.

United Left's Revival Creates Controversy

PY2309031092 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 Sep 92 p A6

[Excerpt] The revival of the United Left [IU], which was doubted after the emergence within the front of two new political currents seeking renewal, provoked a strong debate yesterday. The controversy was prompted by Senator Gustavo Mohme's statement that the front will remain active.

Against all logic, Sen. Mohme, president of Socialist Political Action (APS), said the IU "will continue operating as a political front and a government alternative."

Mohme's remarks surprised the left because many well-known leaders of parties that made up the IU lately have joined the Leftist Democratic Movement (DI) [Democratico de Izquierda] or the Democratic Renewal Movement (MRD) [Movimiento de Renovacion Democratica] in considering that the IU has outlived its usefulness." [quotation mark as published]

One of the first groups to bolt the IU was the Mariateguist Unified Party (PUM).

Only other small groups from parties like the UNIR [Union of the Revolutionary Left], PCP [Peruvian Communist Party], FOCEP [Student-Peasant-Worker Popular Front], APS [Socialist Political Action], PMR [Mariateguist Revolutionary Party], MAS [Social Affirmation Movement], and People Without Party [No Partidarizados], and some significant figures remained in the front after the PUM broke away.

The four latter movements joined the DI and only the first three movements remained in the IU, which was left

without much political importance except when they consider it necessary to boost their image.

These contradictions were recognized by Deputy Julio Castro Gomez, who confirmed the existence of "democratic hues and discrepancies" usual in the regrouping process of a sector that intends to open new spaces in the country's political scene.

In Castro's opinion, the DI is a movement that aims to create a political party with the support of the left, socialists, Christians, labor unions, and social organizations, among others. "Our efforts seek the total renewal of traditional structures using the available experience and eliminating past errors."

Regarding the IU, Castro said it is not a matter of placing one group above the other but of implementing a project for total renewal. "We maintain contacts with all leftist democratic and opposition parties," Castro said. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Police Commander on Attack on Labor Leader

PA2309174392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish Spanish 1607 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] This is a last-minute report: A member of the Bolivarian Movement claimed responsibility for the attack on labor leader Antonio Rios, General Vinicio Barrios, Metropolitan Police [PM] commander has reported:

[Begin recording] [Barrios] The arrest was made because a police patrol happened to be passing by as Deputy Antonio Rios was being attacked. Police arrested the two people who had fired at the man, who was later identified as Deputy Antonio Rios.

[Unidentified Reporter] Do you know whether these two people have a criminal record?

[Barrios] They have none. Their motorcycle is [word indistinct] and one of them, Mr. Cesar Pena, described himself as a member of the Bolivarian Movement and assumed responsibility for his actions.

[Reporter] Did he admit this in his initial statements to the police?

[Barrios] He confirmed this to me moments ago and told the policemen who arrested him the same story.

[Reporter] Did the other person also confess his ties to the Bolivarian Movement?

[Barrios] The other person did not but was seen in the company of the first man by policemen and witnesses.

[Reporter] Was Mr. Pena nervous during the arrest? Was he concerned over his future in the country's prisons?

[Barrios] No. I would not say he was calm but he was not nervous either.

[Reporter] Are operations continuing in the area to determine whether these men were acting alone?

[Barrios] The corresponding organizations will handle subsequent investigations. The arrested are currently at the disposal of the interior minister, who will soon determine if they will be transferred to the Judicial Technical Police or the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services.

[Reporter] How long will they be here at the PM?

[Barrios] Until the interior minister advises me where to transfer them.

[Reporter] Will we be able to talk to them?

[Barrios] No, you may videotape them, but not question them, because that will be part of the summary proceedings.

[Reporter] Do the police already have a theory about the attack? What was the reason behind this?

[Barrios] Mr. Cesar Pena explained it. He said this was part of a Bolivarian Movement dignity operation. [end recording]

Rios in 'Delicate' Condition

PA2309180392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Here is a last minute report. The condition of Antonio Rios, former president of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, CTV, is delicate. He was attacked on the morning of 23 September near the CTV building. As we reported, a couple riding a motorcycle intercepted Rios and shot him three times. According to a medical bulletin, Rios suffered internal bleeding. He was also wounded in the right arm, but the bullet became lodged in his chest and perforated a lung. Police officials indicated the assailants were arrested in record time and are being interrogated by the Metropolitan Police Intelligence Division. It was reported that Angel Eduardo Pena Lacruz [name as heard], a medical student at Carabobo University, and Norma (Josefina Asuaje), a librarian at Venezuelan Central University, had no prior record of trouble with the law but the motorcycle they were using was stolen. The police confiscated from the couple a magnum gun and a grenade. The interrogation is continuing to establish if other persons are implicated in the case.

CTV Reacts to Attack

PA2309212692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Communique issued by the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, CTV, in Caracas on 23 September]

[Text] Faced with the 23 September attack against our companion Antonio Rios, president of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV], the CTV Executive Committee firmly and emphatically declares its indignation, repudiation, and rejection of such a cowardly action, which is unprecedented in the country's democratic history.

We do not doubt that this vile attack is the result of a systematic and unceasing campaign against companion Rios as the leader of the Venezuelan union movement by people who are fully identifiable.

We demand that the government and responsible authorities carry out an immediate and thorough investigation to identify the material and intellectual authors of this despicable attack, as well as their motives and connections.

The CTV will respond responsibly by using legal, democratic channels, but it will not sit back and do nothing to confront the criminal escalation against Venezuelan unionism, which aims to weaken the bases of our democratic institutions.

[signed] Gaston Vera, acting president CTV
[signed) Cesar Olarte, secretary general CTV

COPEI Reportedly To Support Amendments Delay

PA2309220392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Contrary to expectations, the National Executive Committee [CEN] of the Social Christian Party [COPEI] at a special meeting on 22 September did not define a position on the postponement of amendments to the Constitution proposed and announced to the country on 21 September by the Democratic Action [AD] CEN.

On 21 September the AD CEN decided to postpone amendments to the national Constitution, stating that now is not the most advisable time to make such amendments. The COPEI bloc in Congress was expected to support that position and make an announcement to that effect at its special meeting on 22 September.

However, high-ranking COPEI sources said their party will indeed support the postponement of constitutional amendments until after the November elections. Political sources said the two parties agree it is not the best time to make such constitutional amendments.

Senator on Postponement

PA2309222892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] Senator Alfredo Tarre Murzi [of the Social Christian Party] proposed the postponement of constitutional amendments when they were first debated in the higher chamber. He said it is not the best time for such amendments, and that argument was also the one cited by Democratic Action on 22 September as the basis for its decision to propose their postponement.

Senator Tarre recalled that his position was not understood and was criticized harshly on that occasion. However, he had perceived little support for the amendments among the parties and citizens three weeks prior to the debate. In his opinion, that apathy was caused in part by the exclusion of certain issues the community had deemed essential, including the possibility of voting for individual candidates instead of the party slate.

[Begin Tarre recording] I saw this situation and concluded that we would be going nowhere, or as the liberator put it, we would be plowing the sands by promoting a constitutional bill that lacked the citizens' support. [end recording]

Senator Tarre denied claims that the amendments will be postponed because the parties or Congress are yielding to pressure. He added that in our country new proposals are frequently rejected by the citizens, but that has never prevented Congress from approving them. He cited the labor law as an example.

He believes that with the decision to postpone the amendments, Congress and the executive branch will now contribute to solving the serious fiscal problems affecting the country.

Police Clash With Hooded Individuals in Valencia

PA2309224392 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2205 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by Clemente Segundo Diaz from Valencia; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...consecutive day, clashes between policemen and hooded individuals occurred near Carabobo University installations in Barbula in front of the so-called Classroom Arc. Approximately 12 hooded individuals stepped up their activities on the afternoon of 23 September, burning tires and attempting to block traffic on the Valencia-Puerto Cabello Highway. However, they have been repelled by authorities.

Police authorities have stopped every car going to the northern sector of Valencia in Barbula to prevent them from being intercepted by the hooded individuals who have set three vehicles on fire in recent days.

That means there is no communication between La Campina residential area and the northern part of Valencia with neighboring areas.